Attorney Docket No. 249413US3DIV Inventor: Koichi NISHIDA, et al. Preliminary Amendment Filed Herewith

Remarks

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to, parent application serial no. 10/178,720 filed on June 25, 2002, which is currently pending.

The above preliminary amendment cancels Claims 1-4 without prejudice or disclaimer, which have been elected for prosecution in the parent application. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced via this amendment.

Applicants respectfully request early and favorable consideration on the merits.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413-2220 (OSMMN 08/03) Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier 'Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Philip J. Hoffmann Registration No. 46,340

GJM/PH/kke

I:\ATTY\PH\24s\249413\PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT.DOC